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Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council endorses efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina, in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); calls upon Yugoslav authorities to allow continuation of CSCE activities in the region.

+ Secretary-General deplores incident in Mogadishu yesterday in which four United States soldiers with UNOSOM II were killed by an explosive device; says incident will not prevent fulfillment of UNOSOM's mandate.

+ Yukio Takasu of Japan appointed Assistant Secretary-General and Controller in Department for Administration and Management, with effect from 1 September.

+ World Health Organization meeting on substance abuse finds increased level of drug abuse by women, despite general lack of reporting.

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The Security Council this afternoon endorsed the efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina, in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and called upon the Yugoslav authorities to reconsider their refusal to allow the continuation of the activities of the CSCE missions in those places. It took that step by adopting resolution 855 (1993) with 14 votes in favour, none against and China abstaining.

It also called upon the authorities of the Federal Republic to cooperate with the CSCE by taking the practical steps needed for the resumption of the activities of those missions and to agree to an increase in the number of monitors, as decided by the CSCE. It further called on the authorities in the Federal Republic to assure the monitors' safety and security, and to allow them free and unimpeded access necessary to accomplish their mission in full.

The resolution referred to letters on the matter from the Chairman-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of the CSCE, in which he warned

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that the refusal of Federal Republic to allow continuation of CSCE missions in the disputed areas increased the threat to peace in the region.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today deplored the incident in Mogadishu yesterday in which four United States army soldiers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) were killed in an explosion. They died while on a routine patrol in the southern part of the capital when their vehicle was hit by a large explosive device.

The "cowardly attack", the Secretary-General said, demonstrated the urgent need to accomplish the total disarmament of the factions and militias still holding weapons in Mogadishu and the rest of Somalia. The perpetrators of the attacks would not succeed in thwarting UNOSOM II's objectives of providing humanitarian assistance, achieving political reconciliation and re-establishing Somali political institutions. The maintenance of a secure environment throughout Somalia was indispensable for the achievement of those objectives, he said.

On instructions from the Secreatry-General, UNOSOM II was investigating the incident, the spokesman said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today announced the appointment of Yukio Takasu, a national of Japan, as Assistant Secretary-General in the Department for Administration and Management, with effect from 1 September. Mr. Takasu will serve as Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and as Controller.

Prior to this assignment, Mr. Takasu was Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Japanese Embassy in Indonesia. From 1981 he served as First Secretary and then Councellor at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations. He represented Japan at United Nations conferences and meetings, and from 1984 to 1988 he was a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

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A World Health Organization (WHO) meeting in Geneva last week on the patterns of substance abuse among women reported an increasing level of drug abuse by women, according to an assessment from 20 countries. The precise scale of the problem was unknown, participants said, because women's use of psychoactive substances was often a secret practice neglected by researchers.

Those at risk, the speakers pointed out, ranged from young girls sniffing glue to women facing HIV infection from unsafe sexual behaviour or injecting heroin with contaminated equipment, and from teenagers experimenting with cannabis and amphetamines to housewives misusing sedatives and alcohol. Women who used psychoactive substances suffered problems unknown to their male

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counterparts. Female physiology made them more vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection through drug use and they were more prone to physical and sexual assaults by men who used drugs and alcohol. In addition, many women had the added burden of caring for a family and male partners who might themselves be substance abusers.

The meeting was part of a collaborative project between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the WHO Programme on Substance Abuse. It was held in preparation for the 1995 World Conference on Women and its findings are expected to provide the basis for a United Nations system-wide position paper on women, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS.

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